

**LONG BEACH MENTAL EVALUATION QUALITY OF LIFE TEAM WINS
TWO AWARDS**
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October was a busy month for the Long Beach Police Department Quality of Life (QOL) Team. They were recognized with two separate awards for their work in the City of Long Beach with the homeless, and for fostering positive working relationships between the Long Beach Police department and community. The QOL Team is made up of Thomas (Tom) Kirk, LPT III, and Patrol Officers Cris Roth and Brad Futak.

The first award ceremony took place on Friday October 2, 2015, at the Reef Restaurant in Long Beach. It was the "Evening with Angels" dinner and reception, and was hosted by Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc. The event was a forum to "recognize the outstanding work of volunteers in the San Pedro region" of Los Angeles County. The QOL Team was given a special award for positive work with the homeless as well as assisting with mental health consultations and emergencies. The QOL Team was noted for their ability to link the homeless with appropriate services and was considered "instrumental" in helping the homeless mentally ill. Present at the ceremony were Jane

Close Conoley, President, California State University, Long Beach, and Most Reverend Oscar Solis, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop, San Pedro Region.

The second award given to the QOL Team took place on Sunday, October 18, 2015. It was the second annual "Celebration for a Cause" hosted by "Why'd You Stop Me", an organization dedicated to "reducing acts of violence between the police and the public". The event included dinner, a silent auction and a musical performance by L. Young.

The QOL Team was presented with the award for Community Policing. As part of the award, they were recognized for being subject matter experts in the area of homelessness. They were also recognized for being on the front lines of fostering improved relationships between the police and community members, specifically the homeless.

Because of the QOL Team's ability to interface with consumers in an honest, non-judgmental, non-adversarial way, they have been able to assist countless numbers of homeless people and link them to services they may not have been able to receive if approached in another way. It is because of this special ability that the QOL Team was recognized.

Congratulations to Tom Kirk, Officer Roth and Officer Futak for their well-deserved awards and excellent work in the City of Long Beach.